Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Μαντατοφορος

The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Center for Modern Greek Studies
San Francisco State University

Spring/Summer 1987 *MANDATOPHOROS: Bearer of news, messenger Vol. 3, No. 2

Opening ceremonies at McKenna Theater.
(Photo by Ann Condas)

Independence Day!

The **United Hellenic American Societies of Northern California** celebrated the 166th anniversary of Greek Independence Day on March 28 at the McKenna Theater on the S.F. State University campus. **Marina Moustakas** produced a fine program in which **Virginia Lagiss, Peter C. Lagarias, His Grace Bishop Anthony, Cantor Theodore Vassilikos,** the **Honorable Dimis Vassilakis,** Consul General of Greece, and the **Honorable Anastasios Simonides,** Consul General of Cyprus, were featured speakers. Musical entertainment was provided by guitarist **George Sakellariou** and opera singer **Lia Eliopoulos-Zeissig,** and the **Amalia** dance troupe performed traditional folk dances. After the program, revelers danced 'til the early hours of the following day.

Members of the Amalia troupe.
(Photo by Ann Condas)

Agnost and Panagopoulos Receive AXION Awards

Dr. Epaminondas Panagopoulos, professor emeritus at San Jose State University, and the late **S.F. City Attorney George Agnost** were recipients of the Hellenic American Professional Society's **AXION Awards,** presented on February 8.

The annual award coincides with the celebration of Greek Letters Week, and is given to persons of Greek descent for excellence in their fields and distinguished service to the community. This year HAPS held the event at the Seven Hills Conference Center at San Francisco State University. Agnost's award was presented by **Senator Nicholas C. Petris** to **Mrs. Rosa Agnost** and the City Attorney's daughter **Victoria.** Panagopoulos received his AXION from HAPS vice president **Anastasia Condas.**

The **Center for Modern Greek Studies** was also honored at the luncheon ceremony for its outstanding contributions to Greek Arts and Letters. A bronze portrait sculpture of Nikos Kazantzakis, by **George Koras,** was unveiled during the AXION proceedings. The portrait was commissioned and donated to the CMGS and the Kazantzakis Endowed Chair by the **Maria Callas Memorial Portrait Fund** in New York.

(More on Koras, and additional photos inside.)

Victoria and Rosa Agnost.

Beata Panagopoulos To Speak

Coming up is a unique lecture and slide presentation, not to be missed:

Prof. Beata Panagopoulos of San Jose State University will speak on ***Rock Carved Churches in Cappadocia,*** an ancient region of eastern Asia Minor. The talk has been scheduled for **Friday, May 8, at 8:15 p.m. in the Humanities Building, Room 135** (first floor), **on the San Francisco State University campus.** A reception will be held prior to the lecture at **7:30 p.m., in Room 155.**

Prof. Panagopoulos recently served as director of the Gennadius Library in Athens. She is a specialist in Byzantine and Frankish history, art, and architecture, and has lectured extensively throughout the U.S. and abroad. Her book, *Cistercian and Mendicant Monasteries in Medieval Greece,* received the Academy of Athens award.

For further information, please call the event sponsors: the Center for Modern Greek Studies at 469-1892 or Anastasia Condas of the Hellenic American Professional Society at 538-3769/820-2900 (ext. 275).

Above left: Beata Panagopoulos; right: George Koras. Below: AXION organizer Virginia Lagiss with James and Anna Counelis.

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Modern Greek Studies Courses - Fall 1987

Greek 250	***Modern Greek I*** (First Semester) MWF 12:10-1:00 p.m. Humanities Bldg., Rm. 282 Instructor: Thanasis Maskaleris
Greek 250e	***Modern Greek I*** (First Semester) Wed. 7:00-9:45 p.m. Humanities Bldg., Rm. TBA Instructor: Effie Kalafatis
Greek 365	***Modern Greek III*** (Third Semester) Wed. 2:10-4:55 p.m. Humanities Bldg., Rm. 321 Instructor: Effie Kalafatis

Classes begin on September 1. Non-University students can register in these courses through San Francisco State University's Extended Education. Call Extended Ed. at 469-1373 or the Center for Modern Greek Studies at 469-1892 for details.

NOTE: Schedule subject to change. Call to confirm days, times, and room numbers.

Koras Present At Sculpture Unveiling

George Koras, whose portrait of Nikos Kazantzakis was unveiled and dedicated on the S.F. State University campus last February 8, has been a professor of art at New York State University (Stony Brook) for more than twenty years. Born in Greece and a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Athens, Koras has received dozens of awards as well as international recognition for his work.

His sculpture of Kazantzakis was commissioned by the **Maria Callas Memorial Portrait Fund** in New York. The Fund was originally established for the purpose of raising money to cover the costs involved in commissioning and executing a portrait of the late opera singer. Artist **Pavlos Samios** was engaged to do the painting, and the work was donated to the Metropolitan Opera House in the spring of 1984. The successful fundraising left the Fund with a balance, allowing them to commission Koras for busts of both Kazantzakis and of **Dominikos Theotocopoulos (El Greco).** The latter was donated to the Consulate General of Greece in New York, while the Center for Modern Greek Studies/Kazantzakis Chair was honored as the recipient of the portrait sculpture of the great Greek writer and intellectual.

AXION Awardee Epaminondas Panagopoulos and the Very Reverend Leon Contos.
(Photo by Ann Condas)

New Contributors to the Modern Greek Studies Foundation

John Bardis
Steven Boides
George and Anastasia Condas
Isabel Hansen
Dorothy Jay
Peter C. Lagarias
Stella Miller
Nicholas C. Petris
John B. Vlahos

Vouras Shows Films

Greek culture and folklore expert **Mary Vouras** presented three of her films–***Amarantos, Agrapha,*** and ***Aspasia***–on the S.F. State University campus last February 20 in the special program **Greek Celebrations**, sponsored by the CMGS and the Hellenic American Professional Society.

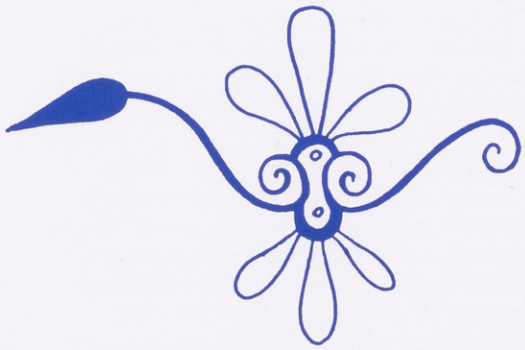
The films depict three *Panygyria* in August in the Greek mountain villages of Thessaly and Crete, and have been acclaimed for capturing "the ebullience of the people and the fervor of their religious devotions" (*The Hellenic Chronicle*). Vouras and her fellow film-maker Alexandra Anthony manage to document a way of life that, unfortunately, is fast disappearing in many parts of Greece.

Vouras was born and raised on the east coast of the U.S., but she lived and worked in Greece from 1958 to 1980. For a brief time she danced with the *Dora Stratou Dance Group*. She is co-author of *Greek Folk Dances*, has been involved in recording and producing regional music of Greece, and has taught folklore and dance at many American and European universities and institutions. We were very pleased that she was able to be here in person and tell us some of the background information and interesting incidents related to her films.

Panel Discussion on Greek Foreign Policy Presented

An enthusiastic, capacity crowd attended the panel discussion ***Current Trends in Greek Politics 1974-87***, lead by **Theodore Couloumbis**, professor of international relations, University of Thessaloniki, **Demetrios Konstas**, vice rector and professor of international relations, Pantios School of Political Science, and **Christos Rozakis**, also professor of international relations at the Pantios School. The unique event was sponsored by the United Hellenic American Societies of Northern California (including the Center for Modern Greek Studies) on April 7, and the three speakers provided incisive and lucid views on present-day foreign policy in Greece.

Konstas began with a look at trends after 1981 (after the PASOK party came to power), and noted the relative maturity in Greek foreign policy. Rozakis concentrated on the Greek-Turkish dispute and expressed his hope that the problem could be solved peacefully, as Greece wants. Couloumbis spoke about Greek-American relations, pointing to the current relationship of interdependence, partnership, and psychological equality in contrast to the client/patron relationship of old. He insisted that "balance for bases" would ensure stability in the area, that "the U.S. should not disturb the balance of power between two vital and strategic allies--Greece and Turkey."



Mary Vouras explains a fine point to Eugenia Nobis.
(Photo by Ann Condas)

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Ithaca

When you set out on the voyage to Ithaca,
pray that your journey may be long,
full of adventures, full of knowledge.
Of the Laestrygones and the Cyclopes
and of furious Poseidon, do not be afraid,
for such on your journey you shall never meet
if your thought remain lofty, if a select
emotion imbue your spirit and your body.
The Laestrygones and the Cyclopes
and furious Poseidon you will never meet
unless you drag them with you in your soul,
unless your soul raises them up before you.

Pray that your journey may be long,
that many may those summer mornings be
when with what pleasure, what untold delight
you enter harbors you've not seen before;
that you stop at Phoenician market places
to procure the goodly merchandise,
mother of pearl and coral, amber and ebony,
and voluptuous perfumes of every kind,
as lavish an amount of voluptuous perfumes as you can;
that you venture on to many Egyptian cities
to learn and yet again to learn from the sages.

But you must always keep Ithaca in mind.
The arrival there *is* your predestination.
Yet do not by any means hasten your voyage.
Let it best endure for many years,
until grown old at length you anchor at your island
rich with all you have acquired on the way.
You never hoped that Ithaca would give you riches.

Ithaca has given you the lovely voyage.
Without her you would not have ventured on the way.
She has nothing more to give you now.

Poor though you may find her, Ithaca has not deceived you.
Now that you have become so wise, so full of experience,
you will have understood the meaning of an Ithaca.

Constantine Cavafis
translated by *Kimon Friar*